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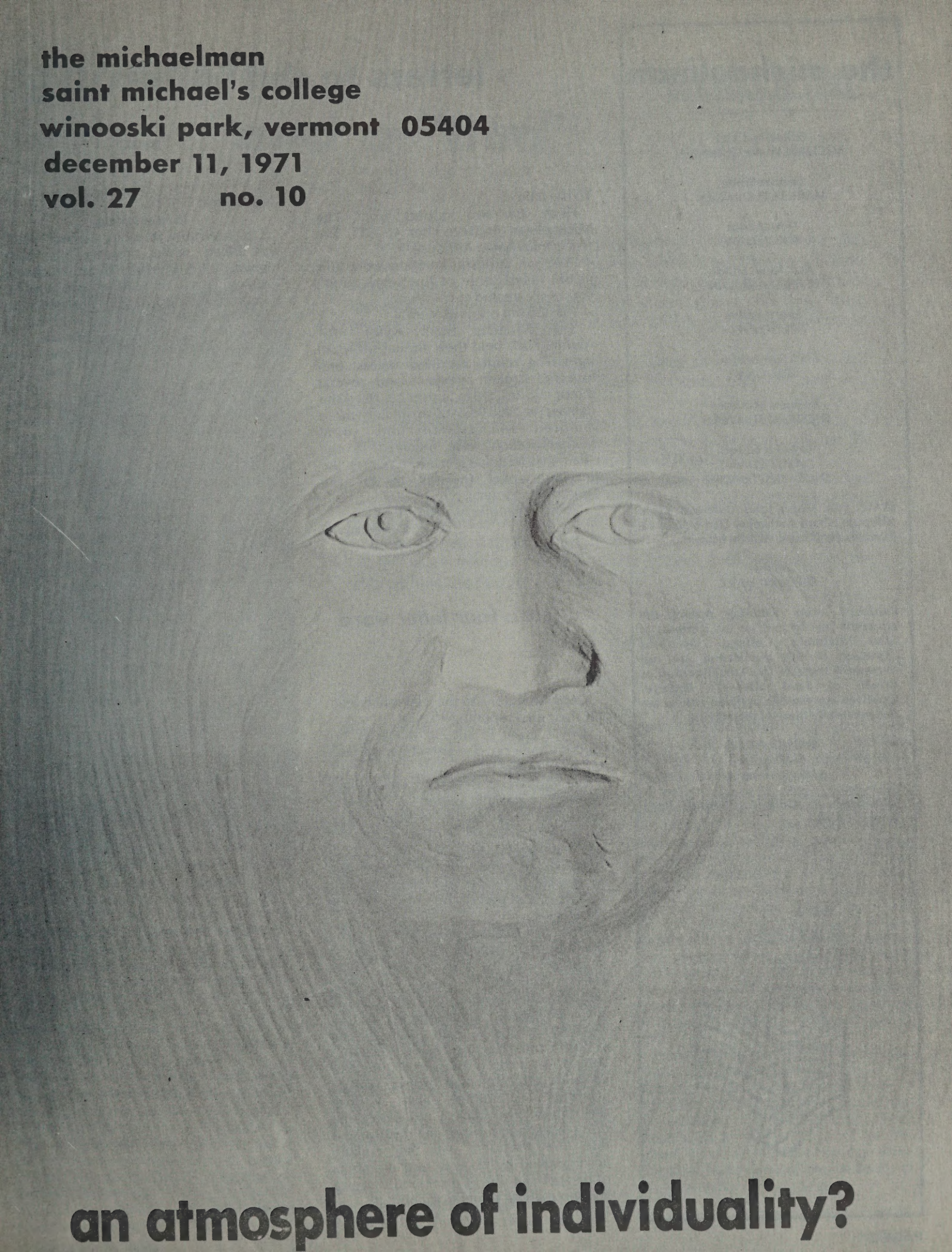

an atmosphere of individuality?

the michaelman

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Saint Michael's College

letters to the editor

need i say more

To the Editor:

Here are two quotes from **The Michaelman** of December 4, 1971. The first is from Kevin Althouse.

"We are, by Vermont State law adults in the fullest sense of the word 'adult', yet we are treated as children."

The second is a news item.

"Last Monday night Ryan and Alumni Halls held their annual snowball fight. The results included at least one hundred broken windows and several minor injuries. Dean Sutton has fixed the damage at $450.00. Approximately three hundred Michaelmen and some Michaelwomen were involved in the affair that lasted three hours during the first substantial snowfall to hit the Hilltop this winter."

Need I say more, Mr. Althouse?

Rene Roy '72

... just a four-letter word

Congratulations to the basketball team for their great opening victory!

It was good to see so many of the student body present and cheering their team on, or was it?

Everybody gets excited at any athletic contest, especially when it is your basketball team playing on home court. All of us at one time or other during the game either because of a bad call, or harassing an opponent uses obscenities to express ourselves in a more forceful way. This is all part of the enthusiasm we try to show.

Once or twice can be excused, but the continuous obscenities and gross language used by a lot of the fans is really unnecessary. There are other people at these games that aren't used to the animalistic atmosphere of St. Michael's. Parents with their young children out cheering for St. Michael's should not have to listen to a bunch of so-called educated and mature college students screaming and yelling obscenities! The players most certainly don't like it, and most of all I'm surprised that the President of the college accompanied by his wife and members of his staff can just sit there and listen to it without doing something about it!

David Leahy '72

"mac"

Dear Editor:

In Memoriam

On November 18, a dog named "Mac" was killed while crossing the busy highway out in front of St. Michael's College. To say that "Mac" was popular here on campus is indeed an understatement. He was, without a doubt, the first campus dog. He was truly a part of **St. Mike's** from the very conception of the school year. He arrived here in September, as a small puppy, before many other students. He was loved by all but a few hostile students and started the rash of puppies that populated this campus soon after. But "Mac" was the original and couldn't be duplicated when it came to bringing a little joy into everyone's day who came in contact with him, especially to those from the north wing of first floor Joyce Hall who cared and trained him. His death brings to mind all the favorable memories one has of him. If "Mac" went to class, as he sometimes did, he immediately brought to life into an otherwise often dismal situation. Teachers took to him as quickly as students and joined together in laughing at the insane things he would do. Mac never forgot when someone was nice to him and returned time after time to particular classes. He also never forgot those who were not so kind and would growl at these people, specifically the janitors. When the use of the cafeteria was closed to him, he didn't give up going there, immediately, and as a result ended up in the "pound" more than once. His happy disposition didn't sour though, through all such harassments. He remained a continual source of happiness to those who loved him. His absence makes one feel rather incomplete and empty. I think it would be safe to say, that for those who knew him, his death is like the elimination of Friday night in one's weekend.

Friends of Mac

ignorance and a "Bud"

editorial

"Animal Farm" revisited Monday night, on the eve of the 30th anniversary bombing of Pearl Harbor when most college students were calling for an end to the killings in Indochina and for an end of the Atticas, some **Michaelmen** were shouting and chanting "bush nigger, you suck" to members of the Middlebury College basketball team.

Again, unfortunately, **Michaelmen** have proven that they are "unique" but in a hypocritical sense. However, they are part of a hypocrisy, aren't they?

". . .ashamed" SA president Paul Fitzgerald said when hearing of the incident that occurred at the Burlington Auditorium as the **St. Michael's College** basketball team ushered in a new season.

The responsible group of students who, on more than one occasion, have been guilty of immaturity gave the spectators a first hand look at just what kind of men they really are.

It was, in fact, a demonstration of ignorance on their part, for it is all the more obvious that the extent of their intelligence goes no further than the bottom of a "Bud."

MWM

A Letter

After returning from Monday night's basketball opener against Middlebury I found that there were certain aspects of the crowd's behavior which deserved criticism. First of all, having sat in a rowdy section of the stands I realize that my remarks don't pertain to the crowd as a whole; only that section of it which felt it necessary to make such comments as "Hey number 22! Make sure you get a haircut when your welfare check comes in" or "You bush-nigger!" This type of remark upset me very much and, for the most part, ruined any enjoyment I could have had at the game.

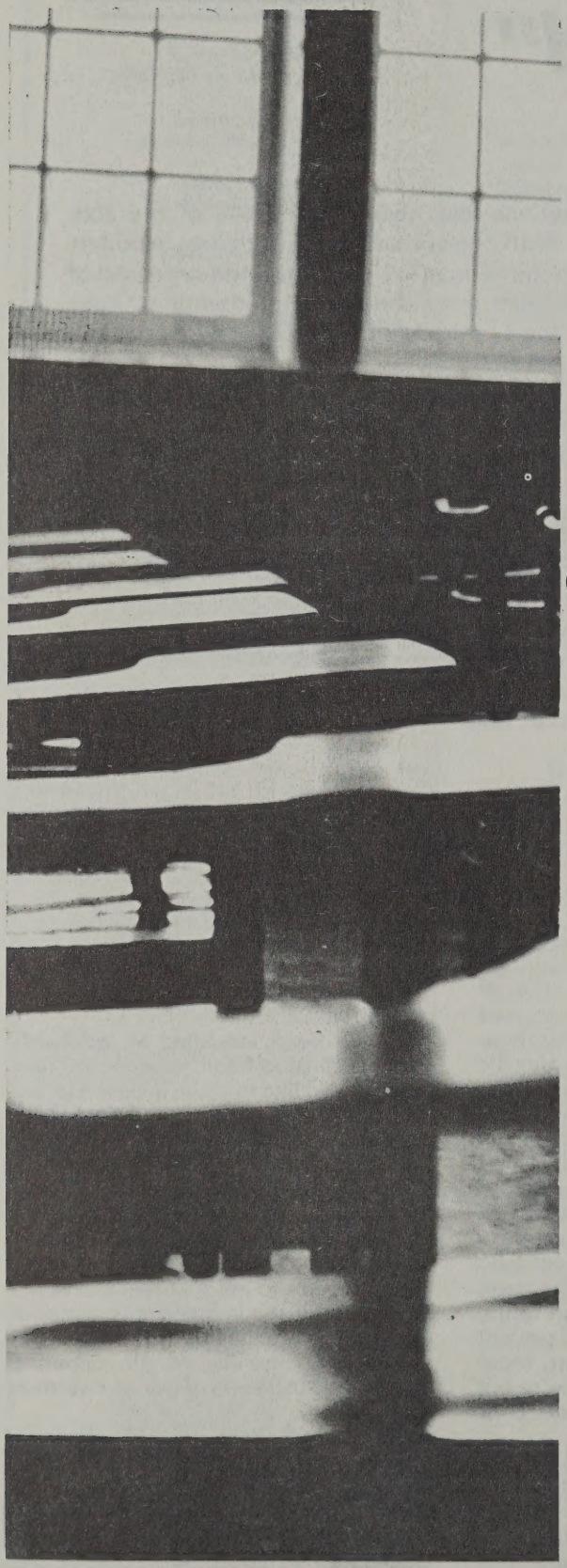
Reflecting back, however, my disgust lies not, singularly, in these ignorant remarks but rather, with the type of person who could find zest in an area such as this. It occurred to me that these remarks were not being made by specific individuals. In a sense, they were the result of the security which some found within a group of approximately 100 **Michaelmen.** It would be amusing and fulfilling to see one of these courageous persons confront one of our own black students, calling him a "bush nigger" to his face. I did not see the student who made the rude, and extremely ignorant, statement to Al Turner go out on to the court when the game ended and present his proposal personally. In short, these individuals turn yellow when they're put in a situation which calls for their singular commitment.

It is hard to be an individual on this campus; it seems much easier to blend in with a herd of people similar to yourself. It is an interesting fact that these few big mouths are only capable of expressing their opinions when contained within this herd. It will be an interesting day when these people graduate from the **"Hilltop,"** if that day is at all feasible, and have to go out and make it on their own; when there is no one around to back up any mindless babbling that happens to pop into their empty heads.

I have been attending **St. Michael's** basketball games for three years now and I would like to make it clear that the rowdiness and crudity is not something new to this year's crowds. The boisterous remarks pertaining to race are. Criticizing of an opponent because of his racial background, something which he can neither control nor has any importance at all, is very, very shallow. Also, it seems to me that remarks which reach outside the immediate concerns of the game (the ability of the competitors) is not only insulting to the opposing team but to members of our own team as well.

To conclude, I can only ask when this display of ignorance and immaturity will stop. Students at this school have a particular reputation which I don't care to emulate. I would rather avoid attendance at sports functions of the school than subject myself to degrading classification because of the behavior of a certain faction of the campus.

William P. Fleming '73



is this

anyplace

to be somebody?

I. in the shadow of the quad

By Jim Klass

The dream of a college community, and within it an active house system has been relegated in my experience over the past four years to just that — a dream. What has gone wrong? Is the realization of a college community possible in the future at SMC?

There has been, in the past decade, a metamorphosis in the reason behind attending college. A long dissertation on this statement is not necessary, it will suffice to say that the classical idea of higher education is not the sole gain. A myriad of interests are now represented in college. The multitude of reasons for attending college has led to a fragmentation of the student body into smaller grouping which have a tendency towards isolationism.

An effective House System and meaningful dorm life are two casualties of this fragmentaton. The House President does not view himself as a representative of the house as a whole but rather he is motivated by his relation to his particular group. This fact, observable in the majority of the houses, causes the House System to function ineffectively, or not at all. A corollary to this is the disintegration of dorm life. A student will consider himself as a member of a particular group, not of the community and will act accordingly. The Damage Report published in last week's **Michaelman** is ample proof of this. Other manifestation of individuals motivated by their group and not the community come easily to mind and elaboration is not necessary.

However I do not contend that the situation is impossible. What **SMC** needs is a new spirit. The fragmentation has produced indirectly an inferiority complex at **St. Mike's** and as outgrowth a mood of apathy. Today, however, there are two trends that appear to have the capabilities of overcoming these negative aspects.

First of all a trend towards progress has begun here on the Hilltop. Two years ago co-education came to **SMC** and perhaps the Fine Arts and Sports centers will soon rise, satisfying our "Edifice Complex" in relation to UVM. With these two steps we seem to be coming to a parity with colleges across the nation.

The second factor which perhaps is more important than the first is the success we have begun to attain in athletics, expecially Basketball. The athletic teams attract a majority of the student's support and a winning season may infuse a pride in our institution and related to this a spirit.

If this pride in being a part of **St. Michael's** develops the student will view his actions, not as a member of a group but in relation to the community as a whole.

II. the pleasures of inconvenience

By Michael Ward

The class of 1972 has followed faithfully in the footsteps of their predecessors by merit of their mass exodus from the campus living facilities. A good majority of the senior class has forsaken dorm life and is now experimenting with apartment living in the greater Burlington area. To say the least, this move has altered many a senior's life style, and to no small degree at that.

The off-campus seniors have finally been spared the culinary atrocities of the cafeteria and are left helpless to create their own gourmet delights. While a steady diet of hamburgers, Campbell's soups, and canned goods might be the norm, and canned good might be the norm, at the very least, it is nutritionally substantial and appetizing to all but the most discriminating of tastes. God bless Chef Boyardee. And God bless the roommate who knows his way around a kitchen, for his is a rare talent indeed.

If he has been selective in his choice of roommates, the off-campus senior has hopefully left behind him the deafening noise that is characteristic of dormitory life where there is an average of thirteen stereo systems per wing. The senior apartment dwellers are busy adjusting to complete peace and quiet in their new abodes and occasional feelings of loneliness are not uncommon, now that the old gang of friends and freaks has been broken up. In addition, a goodly amount of one's time is devoted to the more mundane aspects of co-operative apartment living such as doing battle with pushy housewives at supermarket check-out counters; striving to remain within a monthly budget; and tracking down that incorrigible roommate who has been making those long distance calls to the four corners of the globe.

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With its drawbacks in mind however, apartment living can be beautiful. Imagine, if you will, going to the shower in the morning without stepping on dog droppings, broken glass, beer cans, and other assorted debris of an unmentionable character. This is just one of the finer points of dorm living sacrificed by those who left the quadrangle behind them with its nocturnal war games the like. Upon leaving SMC, one comes to the realization that there is a civilized society beyond the campus confines — yes, even in Winooski, the French speaking slum we all know so well.

Off-campus apartment living is an education in itself, yet no more than was the dormitory experience. There were many lessons to be learned in the communal atmosphere of the campus residence halls — Joyce, Ryan, Lyons, Alumni, Founders, Hamel, Purtill, Linehan. It was here that we met a wide variety of people — some to become friends, others to be pals, and unfortunately, still others to remain unkown. Every acquaintance, however casual, has made Winooski Park endurable.

Sadly enough, this underlying but constant sense of comradeship, this unique quality of fraternity, so readily fostered in a dorm atmosphere, is largely left behind by those seeking refuge off campus. Eventually, one finds the occasion to run into old friends, yet the community living experience no longer exists.

The off-campus seniors, as well as those that remain on, are faced with monumental indecision regarding grad school, career opportunities, draft eligibility and the like. Their focus is on the future and rightly so, for in a very few months, **St. Michael's College** and all it entails will be but a memory. The off-campus living situation has broken many ties between the Michaelman and **St. Michael's** — he is clearly removed from the mainstream of student life. Do not speak to him of parietals, student senate business and student causes for he is preoccupied with finding his niche in society and most likely could not give a damn either way. For the off-campus senior, the break from **St. Michael's College** has already occurred. The awarding of the diploma in May will merely make it official.

III. beyond the negative

In the seven years that I have been associated with **St. Michael's College**, as a student, alumnus, and now a member of the administration, I have witnessed many changes on campus. These changes occurred in every possible area of the college, faculty, administration, families and student attitude as well as sweeping changes in college policies, rules and regulations. Any interested student can easily find a copy of the 1965 student guide and will immediately see how extensive these changes are. Students in 1971 have far greater latitude in determining how they as a group and individually are going to govern their lives. St. Michael's is far from unique in its change as it has been taking place in every institution of higher education as well as the greater society.

However, the changes I am really concerned with are not policy or staff changes, rather as an alumnus and administrator, I am much interested in the changes I have witnessed in the attitudes manifested by the student body. The two concepts I feel I should address myself to are apathy and negativism.

It seems unfortunate that we have a tendency to give most of our concern to the negative attitudes and their results. Damage, snow ball fights, abhorrent behavior on the parts of a few at athletic or other public events, the abuse by a minority of drugs and alcohol, etc., tend to paint a very grim picture of student life here at St. Michael's. Granted, these concerns are very real. They most assuredly must be corrected as soon as possible for the overall benefit of the school and everyone involved, namely, students, faculty, administration, alumni and the outside community.

The word "apathetic" has been used by many (and primarily students) to evaluate the student body. However, I take issue with this concept. Granted, students are not "into" the types of activities that they were when student governments were flourishing. But, because organized student groups are rapidly becoming passe, does not lead to the logical conclusion that apathy is abounding. On the contrary, if one looks in other directions, the absence of anything related to apathy is quite evident. Students at St. Michael's are involved in many activities, both on and off campus, and are very much involved in campus issues.

The area of student activities is regarded by many educators as a very valuable learning experience, one which compliments the classroom and specific course requirements. There are many students on this campus who are gaining immeasurable experiences as well as providing service to the campus and community. Club Sports, completely financed and managed by students,

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have done much to compliment the Athletic Department's program. The Fire and Rescue Squads are performing admirably for the community, many students are involved in volunteer work with public social service agencies. The drama productions on this campus are also worthy of much praise. Our Student Association is trying desperately to remove themselves from "sand box" issues and become involved in the real issues on campus. The educational experiences gained by these students are not only immeasurable, but, very valuable and meaningful.

While attempting to put these thoughts on paper, a number of Michaelmen have come into my office to voice concerns about several different issues on campus. These are the involved members of our community who have accepted a great deal of responsibility in attempting to make St. Michael's a better college. They have also witnessed some of the changes which have come about since their Freshman years. They are also concerned with the utter lack of responsibility manifested by some of their peers. They are becoming frustrated as they perceive their efforts to be in vain. They see their positive achievements being undermined by the irresponsibility of a few. They are reacting to change. When change takes place, some security is lost and until it is regained, people are uncomfortable.

There is much good happening at St. Michael's College. My only concern is that students, faculty and administrators will collectively look beyond the negative and build on the positive.

by Robert Minetti,
Assistant dean of men

Editor's note: We asked Mr. Minetti to write his opinions concerning student life outside the classroom. Specifically asking him to present his perspectives concerning the intellectual and personal growth a student undergoes outside of the classroom and asking him also to reflect the influences of drugs, alcohol and parietals which today are so much a part of the norm here at St. Michael's.

It is interesting that these comments were submitted with the following note signed by Mr. Minetti:

"Hope it's what you wanted, it's more a 'gut' than educational."

the last word

By M.W. McGuinness

This issue has examined the various aspects of student life at **St. Michael's College,** trying to present a part of the picture which is education. Different themes, superficially independent: dorm life, off-campus life, co-education. All encompass a common quest, that of awakening to the meaning of education.

Whatever role we find ourselves fulfilling we are left with the task of educating ourselves, of developing our imaginations and broadening our visions. Every act we do is a means to an end, the end of wonder. Every decision made is an exercise of the freedom to become, either in acceptance of the challenge or in rejection of its multi-faceted difficulties..

Imaginations require stimulation, the give-and-take of friendships, exposure to humanity, the leisure to dream and recollect. Fantasy has become an unfortunate scapegoat for traumas of all sorts, yet the conscious awareness of fantasy is essential. It may seem a contradiction in terms to speak of disciplining the imagination, but it is because of our imaginations that we are free to set about the task of education.

This must not be viewed as an abdication of serious work, nor can it be seen as a process, terminating upon a specific time, dependent largely upon rote memorization. Education is concerned with the mysterious: not necessarily fathoming it, but becoming aware of its intricacies and allowing this awareness to broaden the scope of what we are about.

Students are themselves in the active pursuit of becoming. It seems somehow strange that we must become what we are, and somehow terrifying that the task is endless, and yet somehow infinitely comforting when we become aware of the promises we hold within ourselves.

Every freedom brings with it a corresponding responsibility, and the freedom of education brings with it ceaseless questioning: Questions which we must put to ourselves; questions which we may never answer. Education is substained by wonder, by the roamings of the imagination which uncover more questions, a greater self which is contained in us and not yet found. It is a labyrinth, even as a cocoon becomes a butterfly, and a tightly closed bud becomes a flower.

Education must be self-perpetuated: If I am to become educated, it is **I** who must carry on the process. We are bound together in a society of becoming: methodologies and approaches differ; they are, finally, of little consequence. The task before us is one of **accepting** our **freedom.**

sports

knights blast stonehill

"norton, goose" excel

Stork at the Scene

On Thursday night the purple knights traveled to Brocton, Mass. and faced the Stonehill Chieftains and won a key clash for both teams. It is with great pride on behalf of the 50 or so rooters that showed up that **Saint Michael's** won 97-90. In a high scoring first half **St. Mike's** took a 0-49 lead into the locker room behind the shooting of Norton Toner and Bob Tetrault.

The second half saw the knights gaining momentum but still lacking the killer instinct as several turnovers allowed Stonehill to stay in the game. With 13:20 remaining Bob Tetreault got his fourth foul and 30 seconds later he was charged with his fifth. If they were going to fold this would be the time. Fran Laffin came in after a sub-par first half and played the all around game we so desperately need from him. "Goose" Gestwicki played the greatest game of his career, hitting on 10 straight foul shots and 4 of 6 from the field. It was a tremendous sight to see Jimmy getting a chance to do so ably what he has been practicing for years.

Mike Balzano finally answered his critics with a game that made believers of everyone. Playing tremendous D's and gaining confidence in his shot he scored 16 points. Mike must keep this up and supply a scoring punch complementing the exciting Norton. Playing a superb game Bob Toner delivered 26 points and if the officiating was a bit better Norton would have been well in the thirties. Gene Cyzinski, the frosh sensation from N.Y.C. played a steady game and did a creditable job on Mike Allocco, who is without a doubt one of the fiest ballplayers in the East.

Thursday night's game witnessed a team unity, which we have never seen before here at the Hilltop. Coach Markey is molding a winning spirit around a group of guys willing to listen. Tonight they face Merrimack at the Auditorium and then they have an eighteen day layoff until they take on St. Francis of Penn. in the Gem City Classic.

A top ranking in New England, plus a 3-0 record and then a tourney triumph and we will be on our way!

stork delivers

By Ted 'Stork' Horton

The Purple Knights of Saint Michael's have finally won an opening day basketball game. They easily disposed of Middlebury by the score of 83-70 in a very convincing manner. A flury of activities highlighted the evening.

Playing before the Varsity tilt, the Junior varsity team lost a thrilling double overtime game by the score of 106-99. Having delayed the games beginning by forty-five minutes we then saw blood streaming from Coach Markey's head. After taking care of that, the game was started and immediately delayed by a mal-functioning clock and a net on one of the rims not fitting very snuggly. From this point on the Big G was on the side of **Saint Mike's.**

The first half was a frustrating twenty minutes for the partisan crowd who were fanatically keyed and expecting the Saints to roll from the word go! We were very tight and it wasn't until the insertion of Gene Cyzinski that the team began to move. Hitting on a couple of jumper from the top of the key he gave the Knights a 40-37 halftime lead.

With a lineup of Tetreault, Loffin, Pattison, Toner and Cyzinski, Saint Michael's rolled in the second half much to the delight of the animal section who were definately getting ther money's worth. The coach was able to clear his bench being up twenty points with four minutes remaining the the game. It was a well played second half which allowed Coach Markey to observe his squad gaining confidence and the experience of playng as a unit, as they head into a key game against Stonehill.

The basketball team is heading into this Stonehill game with a must win attitude. For in the past, St. Mike's has yet to, when faced with the challenge, win a key ballgame and until we win the big one we have no right to be selected for the regionals.

We were very unfortunate Monday evening to have the incident which did occur in the animal section. The "vulgar, obscene, hypocritical, childish and degrading" comments which came from the stands is something which should not be allowed to happen. Fan enthusiasm and avid support is one thing, but when carried to the extent of a "You suck" or to implicitly direct racial overtones, the time has come to put a halt to such actions.

"All teams desire the support ot their fans. It is an intangible and phsychological aid. We have been exceptionally fortunate at SMC to have a reputation for loyalty in this regard. With this in mind, I would respectfully request you, our fellow students, to provide an atmosphere of true sportsmanship at all our grames."

Bill Brooks '71

P.S. — Did you hear about Gene Cyzinski calling up Norton and telling him he didn't have a ride to Stonehill yet! Oh well — Merry Christmas to all and see you next year!

knights win opener

merrimack tonight

By Bill Gaa

Last Monday night, the 1971-1972 edition of the **Saint Michael's** Basketball Team took the floor at Burlington Memorial Auditorium. Our team — playing its first game of the season faced a good Middlebury College team, who had split its first two games.

For this game, Head Coach Ed Markey started Fran Laffin, Bob Tetreault, Billy Pattison, Bobby Toner, and Mike Balzano. The game began rather slowly, during the first few minutes it was only our foul shooting that kept us close to Middlebury. The lead changed hands many times, and it was hard to tell the better team. Both teams seemed tensed and unsure of themselves, as the fans were about what to expect from our hoopers. After gaining, falling behind, and then regaining the lead, at half-time, the Purple Knights went to the locker room with a 40-37 advantage.

It was in the second half that **St. Mike's** finally came alive and began to control the tempo of the game. With Gene Cizynski coming off the bench and making his varsity debut, the team shifted to a man to man defense and started to fulfill the long awaited expectations of the crowd.

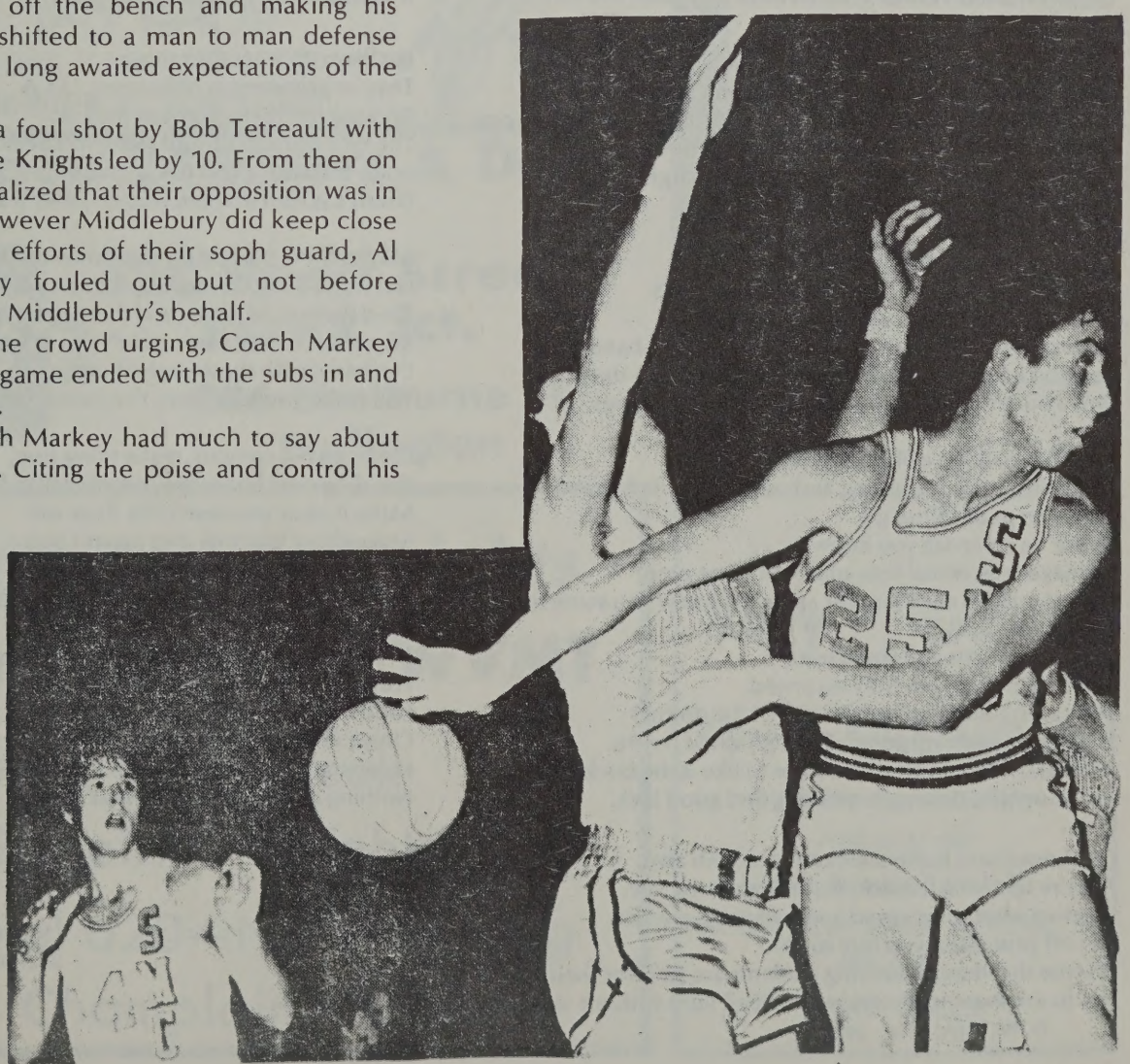
We opened up after a foul shot by Bob Tetreault with 5:30 left in the game the Knights led by 10. From then on the Middlebury team realized that their opposition was in complete command. However Middlebury did keep close through the consistent efforts of their soph guard, Al Turner who eventually fouled out but not before contributing 26 points in Middlebury's behalf.

At this point, with the crowd urging, Coach Markey began substituting. The game ended with the subs in and the Knights on top 83-70.

After the game, Coach Markey had much to say about his team's performance. Citing the poise and control his players had in the second half as the determing factor that brought the SMC hoopers their first victory, Markey added that it was Cizynski that ignited the fire which started them rolling. Basically, Markey said, "he was proud of the whole team in the way they handled themselves — even with the first game jitters."

Fran Laffin led the scoring, playing with a sprained left hand he finished the game with 22 points and 10 rebounds. He was followed by Bobby Tetreault with 17 points and Billy Pattison with 10 points. It was 'Norton' Toner though that made most Michaelmen shake their heads in amazement.

Looking ahead, Coach Markey expects a tough battle with Stonehill, Thursday night. Tonight, playing their second home game, the Knights entertain Merrimack College from North Andover, Mass. Reports have it that **St. Mike's** will find them equal in height and playing the same type of "scrappy" defense.



who else but "norton"

lament of a michaelman

I look out my window and see nothing but sun
Everything is happy, joyous and fun.
When my gaze returns to this table
All the joy in the world seems but a fable.
Tasks to be done, books to be read
With this robot existence I'd rather be dead.

All that I hoped for in college is a joke
My friends are all tripping or taking a toke.
The quad is littered and the dorms like 4 slums,
How long do I have to live with these miserable bums?
Their attitude and manners fill me with despair;
They have no respect, pride and don't care.

They eat like slobs and grunt like pigs
They remind me of Nero with his grapes and his figs.
Learning and discipline is regarded with a middle finger,
Drugs and alcohol encouraged; please do linger.
Stealing and destruction is being ripped off,
Often I wished Vermont State Police had been tipped off.

I had been informed that college made you a thinker,
But I have been bamboozled hook, line and sinker.
Dorm life is active, crashes, glass shattering and terrific booms,
I think I am an inmate in Attica, Rahway or the Tombs.
But there is order and a strong man in charge;
The difficulty is: he seems to be at large.

There seems but one solution to this mess,
A detachment of the Gestapo and Hitler's SS.
This is the only language they understand.
Take care of these bastards and their ruthless band.
Early on a Saturday morning smash down their doors
Drive out these dope pushers, thieves and whores.

Saint Michael's is a liberal arts college,
We'll fill you with learning and useful knowledge.
However as all things go
There's a price-tag you know.
Damage fees, rental fees and even some more
Return with us another year and we'll screw you some more.

I have keen wits and sharp eyes
Of some things I am truly surprised.
Why aren't there toll-gates in all of the dorms?
It seems to be consistent with established norms.
All that the administration seems to like is the buck,
Pay your bills, destroy something and good luck.

Our beneficent leaders looked at us with awe,
They're screwing us back, that's against the law.
Proctors were summoned and told some words:
Get off your asses, you lazy turds.
It's true that these deserving students are paid for their work,
But to ask them to control a snowball fight without weapons
is the logic of a jerk.

Dean Donald was informed of the fray,
What a way to round out his day.
From the distant Burlington came Minetti
O Jesus, Bob, you're still eating your spaghetti.
There were conferences and opinions exchanged
But the decision that resulted is quite deranged.

Oh yes, and don't let me forget the bus,
The Magic Bus that transports all of us.
It's never on time, it's always traversing
It has caused innumerable swears and cursing.
It winds its way from north to south
For its driver I have only a foul mouth.

The recent damage figures are a disgrace
They only serve to highlight this case.
Nearly $6,000 has been assessed
Oh, Jesus what a goddamned mess.
Machines looted, windows broken and other things smashed
It sounds like a 747 has just crashed.

Let them do what they may,
They're prisoners in Miketown, U.S.A.
Because for all the damage they do
The bills will add up and more will be due.
Scare 'em with a visit to Guilmain;
Ernest's skilled in these matters, they'll all remain.

Maybe there is hope for this Town on the hill,
Get rid of this garbage, this human swill.
Send them to Siberia, send them to hell,
Blast them to the moon, that's just as well.
I've had it with these unthinking swine
You make your decision, I've made mine.

Clean up the campus, make thing fine,
The dregs will leave, the rest will fall in line.
Make it clear you won't lick their shit
Make those bastards give up and quit.
It's going to be a long road to drive;
But it's the only one if Miketown is to survive.

I've developed a philosophy about this all
From Fort Ethan Allen to Aiken Mall:
I know there is a lot of trouble
Only there is no decrease, but double.
Listen to me, and refer to this text,
Nothing amazes me now, **what next?**

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Slumni Hall 370

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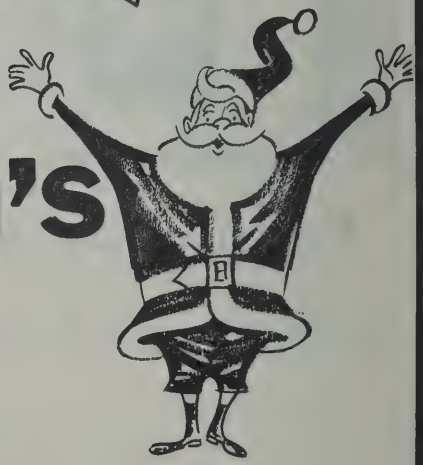

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religion & racism

By Martin A. Hyatt

This week Father Maurice Ouellet SSE left **Saint Michael's College** to go to Houston, Texas; his next assignment. Father Ouellet came to **SMC** this summer to finish his M.S. degree. There was need for a theology teacher so Father was asked to teach. "I was allowed to pick the subject matter for the course. Since I have always felt that **SMC** has shared the questionable racial patterns prevalent in U.S. society it seemed that a course on **Racism and Religion** would be of service."

"I don't always find it pleasant to discuss Racism because it calls for a change in existing thought patterns. As a result of past experience in racial problems I feel that we must attempt to deal with what is in fact the number one problem of our nation and church. Though I detected some preliminary resistance to the implication that all of us do indulge in some form of prejudice, I found the students increasingly responsive to the specific question of racial prejudice as long as they, the students, were treated with dignity and their ideas were considered with respect, if not always with agreement."

Father felt the course was a success. "I think the students themselves would agree that as a result of our discussions all of us experienced change in our attitudes. General statements, inherited prejudices, and biased opinions which could not stand the light of day had to be honestly considered. Because all of these were considered as honest mistakes, if mistakes they were, the students were open to change. None was required of them. Their own sense of justice plus the information they acquired from their own reading, reflection, and discussions as well as that of their fellow students, allowed them to rethink their positions. Both in discussions and in their reports students did in fact often admit to a change of thought."

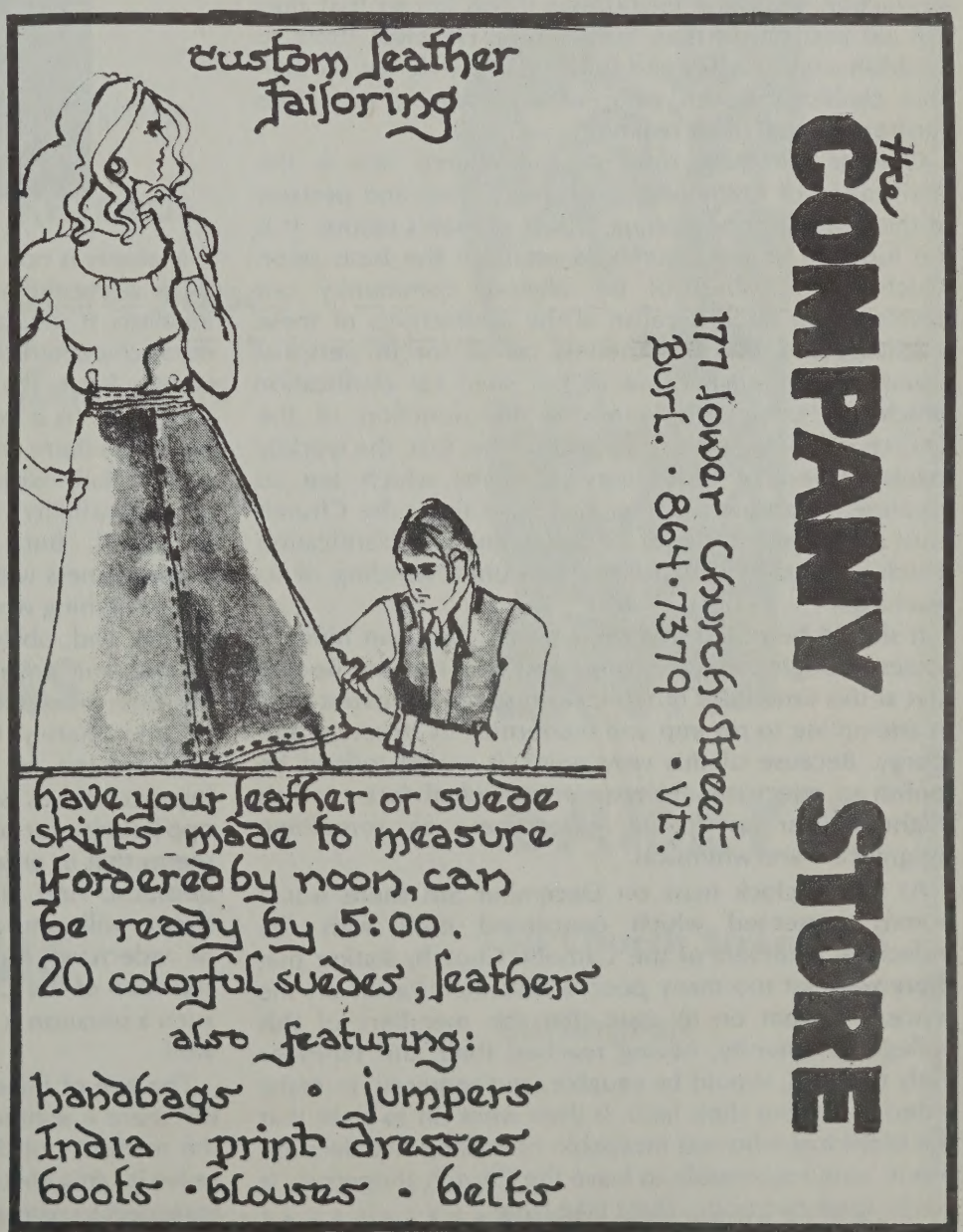
"I think this course needs to be taught. I find it incredible that a problem which has been called the number one problem of our nation seems to receive so little attention here at **Saint Michael's.** It would seem to me that students who are not given an opportunity to deal with that problem are receiving an inferior education. It's like sending a plumber out without a wrench. The pipe is leaking!"

"I know that Saint Michael's has made a sincere effort to meet the needs of both white and black students. I am in no position whatever to be able to judge whether that effort is adequate or not. Many black students have left **Saint Michael's.** Presently black students, because of their small numbers, may feel alienated. For these reasons one can only hope that more can be done. It would be unfair to expect **Saint Michael's** to be fully successful where, seemingly, government, business, and other institutions have not met with any great success despite their concerted efforts. However, one must ask if a Catholic college should not seek to be more prophetic than IBM."

Father Ouellet is going to Houston, Texas as a priest-counselor to direct a counseling center sponsored by a parish. However the center will be open to persons within a large territory regardless of creed or race. Counseling service will be made available to the poor at no cost. He will be associated with the Adlerian Family Counseling Center of Texas. If time permits Father also has the opportunity to teach at Saint Thomas University on a part time basis. The courses would be in the fields of Adlerian Psychology and the Racial Question.

"What began as a last minute course substitution turned out to be one of the more pleasant experiences I've had in or out of the classroom. For that I would like to thank the students."

Editor's Note: This reporter interviewed Fr. Ouellet about his brief teaching experience here at St. Michael's and asked his opinion of the value of his course "Racism in Religion" in the SMC curriculum.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perspectives

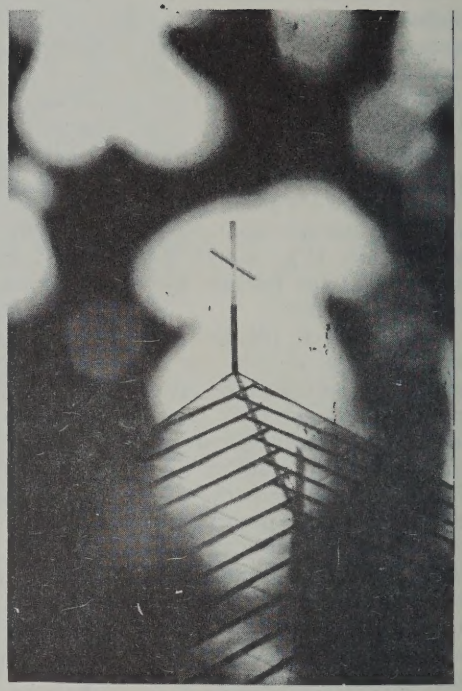
by Mark Flanagan

It should be clear that man is not a being which instinctually bases his life on absolutes. Rather, man generally expresses a fear towards that which is abstract or mysteries. Many times his actions are not the result of individual reasoning but instead reflect the reasoning of the community in which he is contained. However, in order for the individual to live with any degree of satisfaction it is necessary for him to make an attempt to confront the elements of his environment which are alien to him. He must make an attempt to clarify these points of abstraction which he encounters in his life so that they will aid him rather than hinder him. He must strive to establish a worthwhile and fulfilling life-style for himself. This clarification can only occur upon a conscious confrontation of one's realities.

One of the main roles of the church lies in the clarification of the mysteries of the religion and pertains to this cautious, questioning aspect of man's nature. It is the function of the Church to establish the basis upon which the members of its religious community can develop their faith. Because of the abstractness of these teachings and the absoluteness called for in personal committment and because of the need for clarification which the community requests, the function of the Church is now two-fold. It appears to be, first, the worldly manisfestation of those very elements which are so absolute, so abstract. Yet, at the same time, the Church must act as the vehicle for interpretation and clarification which eventually leads to effective understanding of its teachings.

It should be noted that the Church, like man himself, passes through stages of change and flux. It could be said that at this time the Church faces one of its greatest tests in attempting to revamp and modernize its structure and liturgy. Because of this very point, it would indeed be foolish to reject the changes an individual faces, which might appear as feeble indecisions, as something insignificant and whimsical.

At nine o'clock mass on December 5th there was a homily presented which concerned itself with the indecisive members of the Catholic Church, stating that there were far too many people with their "asses on the fence." It went on to state that the members of this college community, having reached their late teens or early twenties, should be capable, and required, to make a decision about their faith. It then went on to state that the individual who was incapable of making this decision was in turn, responsible to leave the Church altogether. It is with these two points that I take issue.



Maturity is not something measured entirely by age, to think along these lines reflects only naiveness and blind idealism. It should be apparant that the development of these characteristics rests solely in one's background and results from the individual's involvement in specific situations. In a community such as the one here at St. Michael's there are people from varied backgrounds who, in their daily existence at the school, do not share equally in responsibility. This, perhaps, could be the fault of the individual. But, to speak of a structured religious consciousness within the college is ridiculous. Religion is not something which is decided upon as easily as a course change and, obviously, it shouldn't be. As individuals in an academic environment it is our privelege, our duty, to question the significance of religion in our lives. To accept religion merely for the sake of decision is not only unwarranted in such a situation but, it would be hyprocritical as well. If we do this we are misusing the opportunity for advancement afforded us. Therefore, it seems that in order to make a correct decision one must question. And, if one must question, then his or her answer will, naturally, be prolonged. However, this period of indecision should, in no way, be reason for total rejection of the Church. And, any attempt in establishing such a situation is not only very limited but destructive as well.

The age of blind faith is over and perhaps because of this there is legitimate reason to question the sincerity or the members of the Church. But, to adopt a "Love it or Leave it" attitude towards religion is just as ignorant as it is in respect to patriotism.

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